

A FEW QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

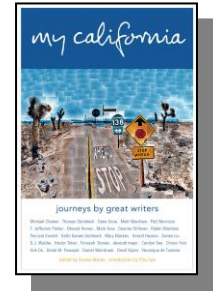
my california journeys by great writers



1. What does California offer that no other state can offer, perhaps in the way of a dream? We seldom talk about a Wisconsin dream or even about a Texas or a New York or Florida dream, but mention a "California dream," and everyone will think she knows what you're talking about (though everyone will probably come up with a different kind of image).
2. When people read *My California*, the anthology inevitably sparks a lively and very personal conversation. Readers tend to zero in on a favorite story, or maybe two, as a jumping off point to reminisce about their *own* California stories. What memories does *My California* stir for you?
3. Several writers take readers along on their road trips through California, showing off the state's out-of-the-way corners or sharing fresh glimpses of familiar places people think they already know. Which journeys did you savor most? Why?
4. The great thing about a travel anthology is that you can take it with you and get lost in a new adventure whenever you happen to have a few spare minutes. How did you read *My California*? From start to finish? Or perhaps you created your own itinerary -- starting with a favorite writer or locale and then zigzagging your way through the rest of the book?
5. The City of Long Beach read the book and teachers across the city used the anthology in class. The district's literacy team gave each teacher the same prompt, an open-ended response to literature: "Explain how the author's use of facts or figurative language added to the reader's understanding of the passage/text. Support your response with ideas and evidence from the text."
6. *My California* is a sampler of some of California's finest novelists, poets, nonfiction writers and journalists. All of the contributors generously donated their work to support an important cause -- arts education and writing programs for children throughout the state. Sadly, the Golden State spends just three pennies per capita to support the arts -- near bottom of states *and territories* nationwide. We live in an era when arts education is under siege in our schools and local communities, when many neighborhood libraries are struggling to keep their doors open and current materials on their shelves. What's happening in your community? How does this affect you? What can you do about it?

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